

I. AMENDMENTS

In the claims

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7 wherein the animal is immunocompromised due to infection [infected] with an immunodeficiency virus.

31. (Twice amended) A method of improving engraftment efficiency for transplantation of a population of non-autologous hematopoietic stem cells in a host animal having an endogenous hematopoietic stem cell population, comprising the steps of ablating the endogenous hematopoietic stem cell population of the host animal and transplanting the non-autologous hematopoietic stem cells into the [patient] host animal in conjunction with decreasing endogenous macrophages in the host animal.

II. REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-31 have been examined and are rejected. These rejections are addressed in the appropriate sections below.

By virtue of this amendment, claims 8 and 31 are amended. Claims 8 and 31 are amended to define the invention more specifically and to correct errors noted by the Applicants. The amendment to claim 8 is supported by the specification (p. 7, lines 30-31; and p. 8, lines 13-15). The amendment to claim 31 is supported by the specification (p. 8, line 28 to p. 9, line 5). No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Currently, claims 1-31 are pending. For the Examiner's convenience, the pending claims are provided in an appendix attached herewith. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Summary of the invention

The claimed invention is to a method of preventing depletion of non-autologous hematopoietic cells.